

1. A method of operating a communication system, the method comprising:
 - receiving telecommunication signaling for calls into a signaling processor, and
 - responsively on a call-by-call basis, selecting routing information based on the telecommunication signaling and transferring control messages indicating the routing

5 information; and

 - receiving the control messages and user communications for the calls into a communication unit, and responsively on the call-by-call basis, converting the user communications from a first communication format into a second communication format having headers that include the routing information selected by the signaling processor

10 and transferring the user communications in the second communication format.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the signaling processor is external to telecommunication switches.

15 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the user communications comprise voice communications.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising transferring the control messages from the signaling processor to the communication unit over a bus.

20 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the telecommunication signaling comprises signaling system seven initial address messages.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in the signaling processor, selecting echo control based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the echo control; and

5 in the communication unit, controlling echo in the user communications based on the echo control selected by the signaling processor.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in the signaling processor, selecting encryption based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the encryption; and

10 in the communication unit, encrypting the user communications based on the encryption selected by the signaling processor.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

in the signaling processor, selecting compression based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the compression; and

15 in the communication unit, compressing the user communications based on the compression selected by the signaling processor.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

20 in the signaling processor, selecting DTMF tone detection based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the DTMF tone detection; and

in the communication unit, detecting DTMF tones in the user communications based on the DTMF tone detection selected by the signaling processor.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

- 5 in the signaling processor, selecting user messages based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the user messages; and in the communication unit, playing the user messages selected by the signaling processor.

11. A communication system comprising:

a signaling processor configured to receive telecommunication signaling for calls, and responsively on a call-by-call basis, select routing information based on the telecommunication signaling and transfer control messages indicating the routing information; and

a communication unit configured to receive the control messages and user communications for the calls, and responsively on the call-by-call basis, convert the user communications from a first communication format into a second communication format having headers that include the routing information selected by the signaling processor and transfer the user communications in the second communication format.

12. The communication system of claim 11 wherein the signaling processor is external to telecommunication switches.

15 13. The communication system of claim 11 wherein the user communications comprise voice communications.

14. The communication system of claim 11 further comprising a bus configured to transfer the control messages from the signaling processor to the communication unit.

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15. The communication system of claim 11 wherein the telecommunication signaling comprises signaling system seven initial address messages.

16. The communication system of claim 11 wherein:

the signaling processor is configured to select echo control based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the echo control; and

the communication unit is configured to control echo in the user communications

5 based on the echo control selected by the signaling processor.

17. The communication system of claim 11 wherein:

the signaling processor is configured to select encryption based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the encryption; and

10 the communication unit is configured to encrypt the user communications based on the encryption selected by the signaling processor.

18. The communication system of claim 11 wherein:

the signaling processor is configured to select compression based on the 15 telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the compression; and

the communication unit is configured to compress the user communications based on the compression selected by the signaling processor.

20 19. The communication system of claim 11 wherein:

the signaling processor is configured to select DTMF tone detection based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the DTMF tone detection; and

the communication unit is configured to detect DTMF tones in the user communications based on the DTMF tone detection selected by the signaling processor.

20. The communication system of claim 11 wherein:

5 the signaling processor is configured to select user messages based on the telecommunication signaling, wherein the control messages indicate the user messages; and

 the communication unit is configured to play the user messages selected by the signaling processor.

Claims

I claim: